



State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Randy Head
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Committees:
Chair, Courts & Juvenile Justice Subcommittee
Elections
Judiciary
Public Policy
Tax & Fiscal Policy

July 27, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As a member of the Indiana State Senate I am writing to express my support for the AT&T/T-Mobile merger application, which the Commission is considering in connection with its 11-65 proceeding.

My senate district – which includes Cass, Fulton, Kosciusko, Miami, Carroll and Marshall counties – is mostly rural. As is often the case with such areas, availability of high-speed data communications services is far from universal.

Having spent my legislative career promoting business expansion and job creation I have learned over the years that robust Internet connectivity can be a key factor in attracting capital investment and promoting innovation. For that reason, deployment of next-generation broadband networks into areas of Indiana where population density is low holds significant potential for expanding economic development and opportunity in our state.

In addition to its positive effects on rural commerce, entrepreneurship, and job growth, increased availability of mobile broadband technology would improve our education system through more distance learning and anytime access to instruction and information. Our health care system also stands to benefit from an upgraded broadband network which would allow for improved access to medical services and enhanced medical innovation. Greater availability of broadband services would also help individuals in rural areas stay in closer touch with one another and their communities.

I am convinced that allowing the applicants to merge and combine their networks will set the stage for accelerated deployment of 4th Generation Long Term Evolution wireless infrastructure. Over the seven years following the merger, AT&T and T-Mobile plan to invest an extra \$8 billion and expand their coverage area to include an additional 55 million Americans – among them, about 1.6 million Indiana residents. As a result this 4th Generation network will supply better wireless voice service – and high-speed data communications technology equal to that in major population areas – that would become available to businesses and families in Indiana's smallest and remotest communities.

I would ask that, in reviewing this application, you give serious consideration to the compelling arguments for permitting AT&T and T-Mobile to join forces and to the good that would result from this accelerated deployment of wireless infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Head", written in a cursive style.

Randy Head
State Senator
District 29

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell